Action against corrupt public servants

1604. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether CVC has been considering to nab corrupt public servants and making them liable for prosecution even after retirement;

(b) if so, whether vigilance officers have been deputed to arrange traps to nab the corrupt public servants;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) other stringent steps Government propose to take to ensure that Government servants may not indulge into unfair means to earn money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) to (c) A public servant continues to be liable for any acts of omission or commission committed by him while in service even after his retirement, under the provisions of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. However, under that Act, traps can be arranged to nab the corrupt public servant(s) only by Police Officers. The Prevention of Corruption Act does not empower the Vigilance Officers to arrange such traps.

(d) The punitive actions being taken under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 duly supported by various Conduct Rules governing the service conditions of public servants act as a deterrent against corruption. Moreover, the drive against corruption in public services to check malpractices in administration and to provide efficient public services is a continuing process. The policies formulated in this regard are modified from time to time in order to make them more effective and responsive to the changing environment. Some of the steps taken by the Government in this regard are as under:—

1. Special drives are launched by the Central Bureau of Investigation from time to time to detect cases of disproportionate assets, to organise traps to apprehend public servants while demanding and accepting illegal gratification and conduct surprise check at sensitive places.

2. The Central Vigilance Commission Bill has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 20.12.1999 to confer statutory status on the CVC. The Bill stands referred to the Joint Committee of both the Houses of Parliament on 21.12.1999 for consideration and its recommendations.

3. The Central Vigilance Commission has been vested powers vide Para 3(v) of Department of Personnel and Training Resolution No. 371/20/ 99-AVD. III dated 4th April, 1999 to exercise superintendence over the vigilance administration. The Commission has issued several instructions to reduce the scope of corruption such as creating a culture of honesty, greater transparency in administration, electronics clearance system and computerisation of banks, sensitising the public etc. The Central Vigilance Commission has also issued Special Chapters on vigilance management in public sector banks and public sector undertakings.

4. It is proposed to set up the institution of Lok Pal to look into the allegations of corruption against high public functionaries. Lok Pal Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 3.8.1998 but lapsed on the dissolution of the 12th Lok Sabha on 26.4.1999. Steps are being taken to introduce the Bill afresh.

5. The Government set up a Working Group on 'Right to Information and Transparency' in January, 1997 which submitted its report to the Government on 21st May, 1997. The report of the Group has been processed and a Bill for Freedom of Information has been drafted. The Bill is presently under examination for introduction in the Parliament.

6. Recognising that an important aspect of Preventive Vigilance is to ensure transparency in public administration, measures of administrative reforms such as introduction of Citizens Charters and setting up of Facilitation Centre have been initiated. The review and simplification of laws, rules and procedures has also been taken up.

Bank Defaulters

†1605. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was was received in Hindi.